

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02196 060710Z

12

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 060505Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3213

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2196

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: OREP, KS

SUBJ: CODEL O'NEILL AND NEW EMERGENCY MEASURE

1. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE DEPTOFF SPEAK CANDIDLY TO CHIEF OF STAFF ACCOMPANYING CODEL O'NEILL (HARRY CROMER) ABOUT CURRENT DOMESTIC SITUATION IN KOREA AND IMPLICATIONS FOR VISIT OF LATEST EMERGENCY MEASURE.

2. WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT ANY DECISION REGARDING VISIT TO SEOUL IS FOR CODEL TO MAKE, BELIEVE CODEL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE WILL BE GREATER TEMPTATION AND LIKELIHOOD THAN ON OCCASION ANY PAST VISIT OF THIS NATURE FOR BOTH ROKG AND ITS OPPONENTS TO INTERPRET PRESENCE OF US CONGRESSMEN AS SUPPORT FOR OR INDIFFERENCE TO CURRENT POLITICAL TRENDS. COINCIDENCE OF VISIT WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WILL DOUBTLESS ALSO BE REMARKED BY TOKYO-BASED US PRESS, WHICH IS PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS HERE AND HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY CRITICAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURES.

3. WE SHOULD ALSO TELL CODEL THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE COURSE OF EVENTS AND THAT IT POSSIBLE CONGRESSMEN COULD ARRIVE IN MIDST SOME FORM OF DOMESTIC CONFRONTATION.

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4. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH POINT OUT THAT EVEN BEFORE
MOST RECENT EMERGENCY MEASURE WAS PROMULGATED, GROUP
OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC/PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES HAD ASKED
TO SEE CODEL TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER VISIT AS BEING
PRO-PARK GESTURE.
HABIB

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